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NEW-YORK'S PROTECTION AGAINST YELLOW FEVER.

Disinfection Has Given Way to More
Modern Methods.Written for The Tribune by Dr. A. H. Doty, Health
Officer of the Port of New-York.

The regulations which are in force at the New-York Quarantine Station to detect the presence of yellow fever on incoming vessels, consists in the thorough inspection of all persons who arrive from ports infected with this disease. Neither the statement made by passengers or crew as to their physical condition, or a visual examination of said persons, is deemed sufficient for this purpose, inasmuch as those who are entering the stage of invasion of an infectious disease may at the time of inspection appear perfectly well.

To detect this early stage the thermometer has for the last seven or eight years been a part of the regular examination of persons arriving from infected ports. The value of this instrument is apparent, inasmuch as it records temperatures which are above the normal and indicates the presence of fever and the approach of disease before it is known to the patient or physician.

Under the present regulations those whose temperature is above the normal register are regarded as suspects, and are removed to Hoffman Island for observation. While at this place bacteriological examinations of the blood are made, not with the expectation of proving the presence of yellow fever, but rather the presence or absence of malaria. All are held until it is evident that no infectious disease exists. During the time that the thermometer has become a part of the regular examination at this station many cases of infectious disease in the early stages have been detected, which probably would have escaped the ordinary inspection.

Yellow fever is now known to be transmitted from one person to another by a variety of the mosquito known as the "Stegomyia." This mosquito does not, under ordinary circumstances, breed in this part of the country, but is found in the southern portion of the United States and various other parts of the world. While there are some who believe that there may be other means of infection than by the mosquito, there is at present no proof of it, and as the result of the most careful investigation we are justified in assuming that the mosquito alone transmits the disease.

It is important, however, to understand that the sting of the "Stegomyia" does not transmit yellow fever unless it has previously been infected by stinging a person who is suffering from this disease. Investigation has also demonstrated a peculiar fact in connection with this part of the subject, i. e., that the "Stegomyia" cannot transmit the disease directly from one person to another, but that an interval of about twelve days must elapse between the time that the mosquito receives the infection and the time that it is capable of transmitting it.

A CURIOUS FACT.

The question is frequently asked, Why, if yellow fever is contracted through the medium of the mosquito, is there not danger of this disease being transmitted when a case occurs on a vessel in transit from an infected port? Theoretically, this should occur; practically, however, it does not, except in rare instances. So far as my experience is concerned, I have never known of a case of yellow fever that was contracted on shipboard, i. e., transmitted from one to another in transit. Vessels are daily coming to this port from yellow fever infected areas, but the history of every case of this disease thus far at the New-York quarantine station shows that the infection was received at the port of departure, and not on the vessel.

Throughout the period that yellow fever was prevalent in Cuba, cases of this disease were frequently removed from vessels arriving from Havana and other Cuban ports, but in every instance the beginning of the disease was shown to be within a period of five days from the time of departure from the infected area. Five days is now regarded as the maximum period of incubation of yellow fever.

An exceedingly significant fact lies in the history of vessels coming from South American ports, which are at least three weeks in transit to New-York. While the best evidence has frequently been presented by the ship's log and by the statements of the captains and surgeons of these vessels that within five days after leaving port one or more of the members of the crew or passengers became ill and died, or recovered from, yellow fever, in no instance has there been reasonable proof that secondary cases of the disease occurred in transit.

Furthermore, no cases of yellow fever have been found on vessels arriving at New-York from these ports. I am well aware that instances have been cited by trustworthy authorities where secondary cases were believed to have occurred on shipboard in transit, but this condition has never come under my observation. I feel sure that experienced and practical sanitarians will at least agree that the transmission of infection on shipboard is exceedingly rare.

Many of the cases in former years, which were reported as having been infected with yellow fever on shipboard, were undoubtedly ill with malarial fever. Expert diagnosticians agree that in some instances it is practically impossible to decide between these diseases without an examination of the blood. This aid in diagnosis has only been at our command for the last fifteen or twenty years. In 1880 Dr. Laveran, a French army surgeon, on duty in Algeria, discovered the organism which causes malarial fever. His method of detection was subsequently improved upon and simplified, and the examination of the blood of patients believed to be suffering from yellow fever or malarial fever, is now a part of the regular examination for the detection of these diseases. Since the addition of this method to the ordinary examination, the reports of secondary cases of yellow fever occurring on shipboard in transit have been notably diminished.

THE MOSQUITO'S HABIT.

Why yellow fever is rarely transmitted on shipboard after the vessel has departed from an infected port is probably due to a number of reasons. The fact that twelve days must elapse between the infection of the mosquito and the time that it can transmit the disease will to a certain extent furnish protection to those on shipboard, particularly if the voyage is less than twelve days. However, this would not in itself furnish full protection for this period, as it would be possible for infected mosquitoes from shore to reach the vessel before its departure.

In order to understand why there is not much danger from this source to those in transit, it will be necessary to know something of the habits of the yellow fever mosquito. Mosquitoes as a rule do not willingly go far from home, and the "Stegomyia," the variety which transmits

yellow fever, is a notable example of this, and there is abundant proof that it remains in close proximity to its home or breeding place. The experience of sanitary officers in Havana during the period that yellow fever was present in that place showed that the appearance of this disease in a certain locality was followed by cases in some house nearby, either the adjoining houses or in one or more on the opposite side of the street and not at a distance. It has been recognized by all observers that the disease is confined to certain localities.

In a very interesting account of the yellow fever epidemic which occurred in Norfolk, Va., in 1855, and published in the following year, the Rev. George T. Armstrong, the author, who was present in that city during the outbreak and contracted the disease, after giving a detailed description of the epidemic, states his conclusion as to the cause and peculiarities of yellow fever. I quote as follows:

"Those who were active in administering to the sick and did take the fever did not take it as a general thing until an epidemic it reached the part of the city in which they resided. In my own case I was for more than six weeks almost constantly during the day among the sick, the dying and the dead, and this in a part of the city where the fever was raging with the greatest violence; yet I did not take the fever until an epidemic it reached the part of the city in which I lived, and then I was one of the first to be prostrated by it. I could mention many other cases similar to my own. Those who resided in the adjoining country and came into the city during the day in no instances that I have heard of took the fever."

TWO IMPORTANT POINTS.

It is rather remarkable that an observer fifty years ago, with no knowledge of the exact means by which yellow fever is contracted, should have recognized two of the most important points connected with the transmission of the

disease, namely, that yellow fever occurs in certain localities and grows from a given point, and that the disease is generally contracted at night. An explanation of this is as follows: Mosquitoes which transmit yellow fever do not go far from their home or breeding place and are most active after sundown. At the

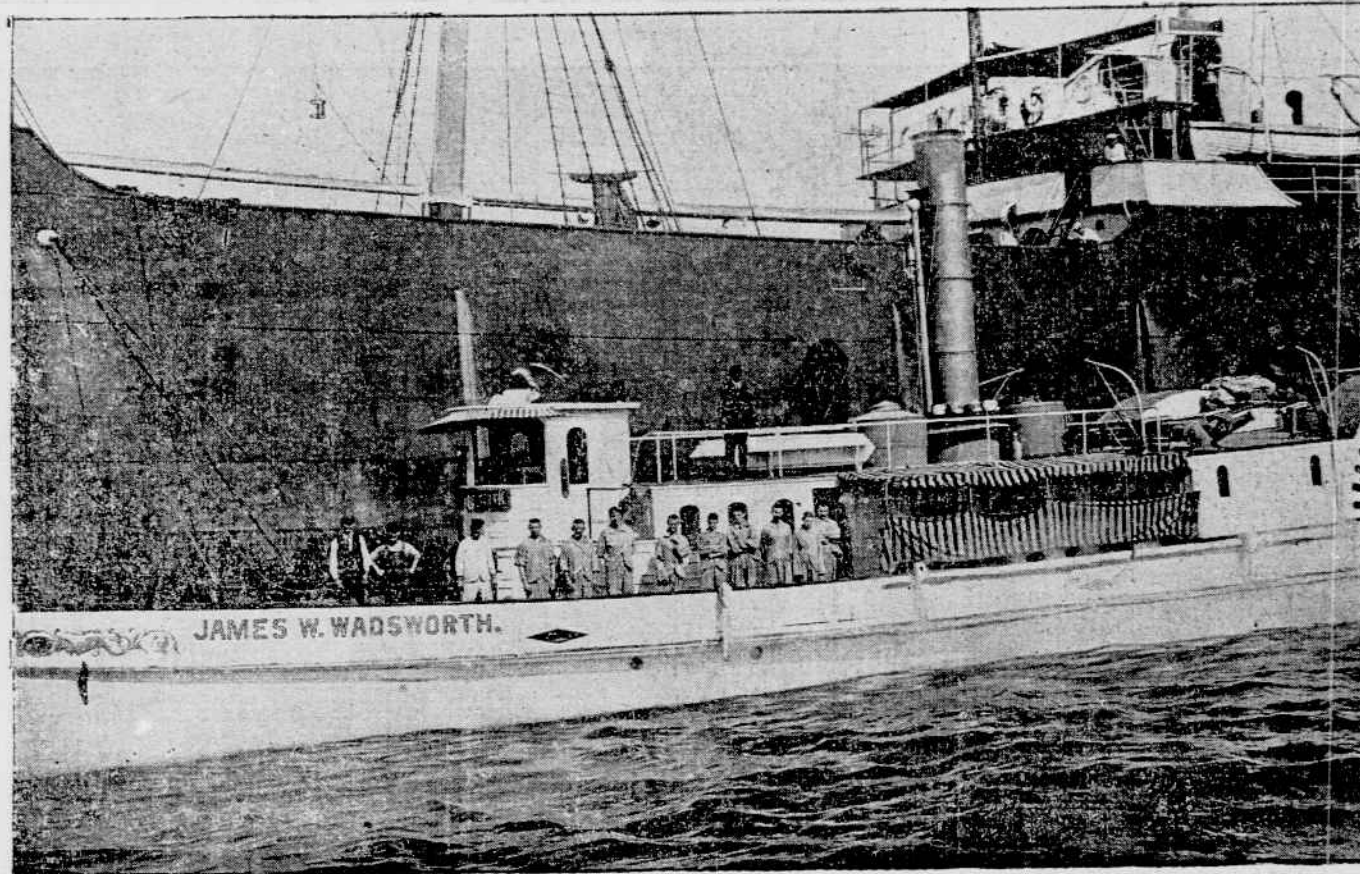
present time the residential part of seaport towns is not as a rule along the water front nor in close proximity to vessels lying at wharves. Therefore infected mosquitoes would have some distances to fly in order to reach these vessels and this is at variance with their habits. Furthermore, vessels plying between United

States ports and yellow fever areas make quick trips, do not remain long in port, are in good sanitary condition, and offer no breeding place for the mosquito. It must also be considered that in a town where yellow fever is prevalent the number of infected insects is comparatively small. Although mosquitoes are commonly found on vessels lying at the dock, the testimony of passengers and crew conclusively shows that after the departure of the vessel they rapidly disappear and but few are found after the first or second day.

It has also been asked why, if the yellow fever mosquito does not propagate in this part of the country, did numerous outbreaks of the disease occur in New-York City between 1798 and 1820? I believe that it is explained in the following way: The small wooden trading vessels of one hundred years ago, which plied between the United States and foreign ports, were usually a number of weeks in securing a full cargo, which at Cuban and Central American ports included material which decomposed readily and became offensive; with the water which reached the hold of the vessel through leaks or rain, many breeding and feeding places for the mosquito were furnished. At the time referred to a portion of the native population lived along the shore and in close proximity to the vessels which were taking cargo for foreign ports; therefore, there was a close affiliation between the members of the crews of these vessels and the natives and every reason why the non-infected and infected mosquitoes should reach the vessel and why they should breed there and transmit the disease to those on board.

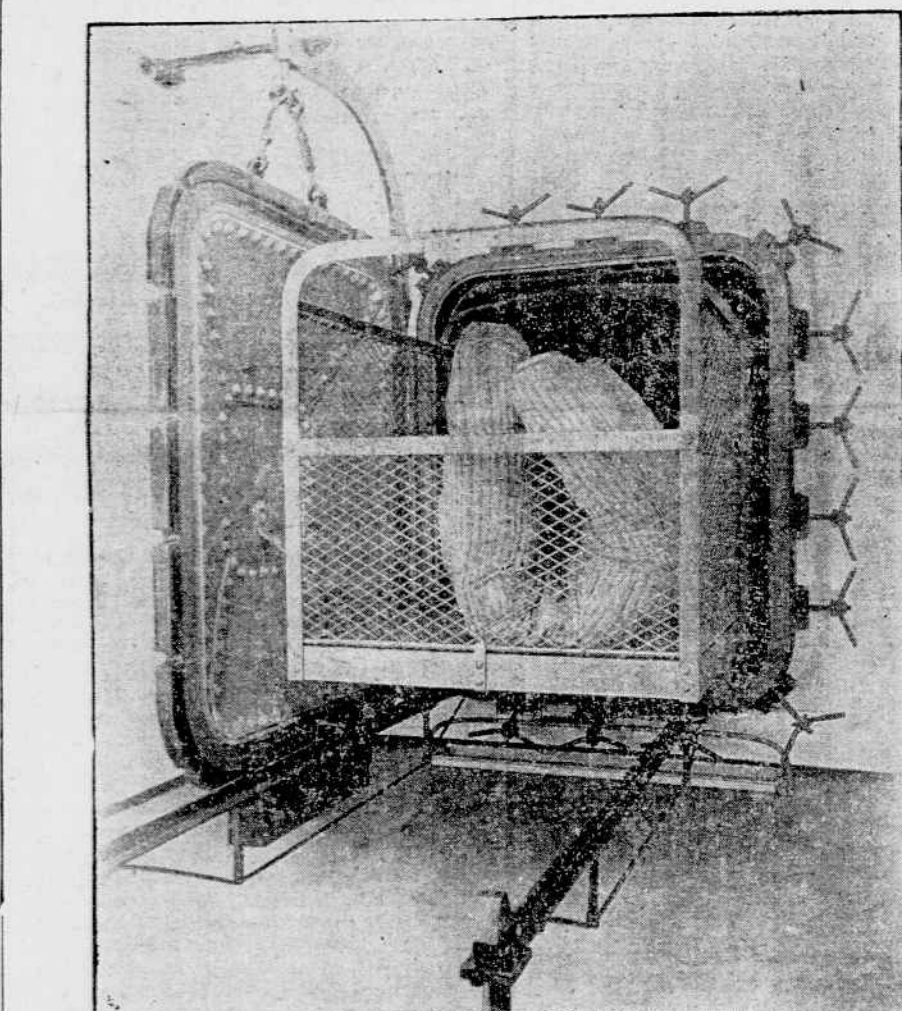
During the summer of 1798 yellow fever appeared in New-York, at the foot of Peck Slip. The statement is clear as to the manner in which it occurred. A bark laden with an offensive cargo arrived at Peck Slip from a Cuban port with a history of cases of a malignant fever. Portions of the cargo which were offensive were evidently thrown overboard at this place. Within a few days afterward cases of yellow fever appeared.

A copy of the report of the City Health Officer of that period which is now in my possession specifically states that the sanitary condition at Peck Slip and vicinity at the time referred to was exceedingly bad, owing to the presence of offensive sewage, etc. Residences were situated along the waterfront, and it was in these houses that the yellow fever



DR. DOTY'S DISINFECTING STEAMER IN OPERATION ALONGSIDE VESSEL SUSPECTED TO CONTAIN BUBONIC PLAGUE GERMS. The men in pajamas are awaiting the disinfection of their ordinary clothing.

(Copyright by E. A. Austin.)



A STEAM CHAMBER FOR DISINFECTING CLOTHES AND BEDDING ON BOARD THE JAMES W. WADSWORTH.

(Copyright by E. A. Austin.)

Central Park Trees Not Receiving Proper Care

Neglect, Poor Taste and Bad Judgment
Are Marring This Beautiful Spot.

The trees in Central Park are not receiving proper care. Some are dying. Some already dead have not been removed. New trees to take their places are not being set out. Dead limbs will be dead and are not being set out. Dead limbs are not removed from living trees. Trees are not trimmed when they are trimmed. Squirrel houses, to the number of about two hundred, and telephone wires have been fastened to the trees. There are other evidences of lack of care in the park. Boys are permitted to climb into the trees without molestation. Flower beds are not properly cared for. Poor plants are permitted to disgrace them. The attendance of an expert is not needed to prove this to any one walking through the park. It is self-evident. The following are some of the evidences observed by a representative of The Tribune while walking through the southeast quarter in the neighborhood of the Arsenal, in which is the office of Commissioner Pallas:

The beautiful cathedral-like arch of the Mall is not kept in good condition. There are dead branches on the magnificent elms on both sides of the great walk between the statues of Scott and Burns and that of Pitt-Greene Halleck. Nearby, on the west side, is a dead Lombardy poplar and another partly dead. The former is hardly more ornamental than a telegraph pole. On another tree nearby the leaves are shriveling. The ground beneath is half covered with fallen leaves. A wire fence bordering the branching walks on the same side is in a disgraceful condition. The wires are slack. A large number of the stakes lean over at all the angles between 90 and 180 degrees.

At the upper end of the Mall on the west side is a fountain whose gouting reminds one of the task of Sisyphus. Imposed upon the task of the ever recurring task of opening a way for itself to the air above. As often as it accomplishes the task of rearing water reimpotes the burden and again it must lift the blanket. Opposite this fountain is an elm which is half

dead. Black and barren branches rise from the trunk on all sides. Telephone wires are attached to two or three trees at this point.

A squirrel house stuck up in the crotch of one of the magnificent elms impudently intrudes upon the majestic aisle of the Mall. It looks as much in keeping with the scene as it would if stuck in the gothic arches of a great cathedral.

Swinging around to the eastward, south of the Casino, and crossing the drive, one comes upon several standing dead trees. In the angle formed by the drive and the walk opposite East 68th-st. are two dead or dying trees. On the rock just below is a tree as dead as the traditional doornail. On the east side of the walk nearby, and just under the edge of the rock on which the small summer houses rest, is a leafless and dead American chestnut, and just a little below it on the right hand side of the walk is a dead walnut tree. Just before passing under the road crossing the park from East 65th-st. on the way to the Arsenal one comes upon two oaks on the left hand from which dead limbs should be removed.

The flower beds around the Arsenal itself a week ago were illustrations of what a flower bed in a public park should not be. Around the borders were lilacs whose leaves were rusty and dried up around the edges. They looked as if they were dying for lack of water or as if no care had been taken to select good plants.

The beauty of a willow consists in its symmetry of form and the drooping character of its plant branches. If one would like to see how the park officials can trim a Babylonian weeping willow so that one would hardly recognize it as a tree of that species, one should look upon the one at the end of the Bow Bridge over the 72d-

st. lake. According to experts, by injudicious pruning, this tree has practically been ruined, and is not likely ever again to be an ornament to the scene if it should survive the surgical ordeal to which it has been subjected. It has been robbed of all symmetry. A long limb extends horizontally toward the east. This limb is separated from any others on that side of the tree by a triangle of blue sky. The mutilated ends of the limbs in the top of the tree resemble in hideousness the blunted ends of the fingers of a man whose hand has been injured by a cornet. The tree resembles a one armed derrick, for there is no branch on the opposite side to balance the long horizontal one. In consequence, the tree looks lopsided. There are few of the drooping tendrils which characterize the willow and constitute one of its chief claims to the praise of the eye. The tree is only an excrescence upon the greensward of the park, taken all in all.

Many of the evergreens in the park are rusty. They look as if they were dying. This may not be the fault of any one in particular. No one seems to be able to give a reason for their deterioration.

Many squirrel houses have been erected in the park within the last year. According to an official of the Park Department, some were put up on the initiative of the department, and many were furnished by and put up at the request of a number of women who thought there should be an ample supply of homes for the homeless squirrels. This was done without learning from the squirrels themselves whether they desired to change from the style of domicile to which they had been accustomed from time immemorial. The workmen in the park do not seem to have enjoyed the work of nailing the little houses to the trees for the good intentioned women.

"The women, they ordered us around just like we were their servants," said one of them the other day. "They'd have one put up on the after you'd come down they'd want it changed,

first appeared. It is perfectly logical and reasonable to assume that this vessel which arrived from a yellow fever infected area not only had cases of this disease on board, but contained many breeding places for the propagation of the Stegomyia. Under these conditions there was no reason why secondary cases should not have occurred in transit or why the breeding places of this insect should not have been transferred to the shore in the vicinity of Peck Slip to continue until the appearance of cold weather.

THE PLAGUE UNDER CONTROL.

The knowledge which we now possess regarding the means by which yellow fever is propagated and the methods which are employed in preventing the extension of the disease, combined with the enforcement of modern sanitation, both on land and on shipboard, has practically placed us in control of yellow fever, and we are justified in believing that the serious outbreaks which from time to time have occurred in the South are things of the past. It is quite certain that this part of the country has nothing to fear from this disease. It may be of interest to add that disinfection, so far as being a means of preventing the extension of yellow fever, is now regarded as unnecessary, and has been practically discontinued. This removal of a serious obstacle and expense to commerce, as well as a great annoyance to people coming from yellow fever infected districts.

ANGORA GOAT RAISING.

Desirable Industry for Consumers
to Engage in.

Out of the West comes a new hope for consumers in whom the disease has not reached a stage that unfits them for light labor. So often one hears the cry that South-So cannot go to a climate where there is promise of regaining health and strength and building up defective lungs because he has no means of earning a livelihood there. In the raising of Angora goats, a rapidly growing industry in the foothills of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon and Washington, a new field seems to open for the unfortunate.

A small amount of capital is necessary. In the

first place, the Angora goat farmer must have a range. There are thousands of acres of suitable land still open to settlement under government homestead laws. Vast tracts are owned by Western railroads and can be purchased at a low rate by the acre, at cash prices which range from 15 cents a head, and by crossing them with thoroughbred stock secure, it is said, a satisfactory herd in a year or two.

The beauty of goat ranching for the consumptive is that it can be carried on in the higher altitudes, where one finds just the air that has the most curative possibilities. The Angora takes to the brushy lands as a Jersey cow does to a field of clover. They are hardy animals and can feed for weeks and grow fat on a hillside where other animals would perish. If one wishes to go to farming a herd of goats will clear the acres of brushwood faster and better than a crew of men. Unless this cleared land is immediately cultivated, however, the brush will spring up, and it can be utilized again as a goat pasture.

The annual increase of an Angora flock is said to be about 50 per cent. The young goats need some care for the first few hours after birth. The mother has a fashion of deserting her young for a day or two. She returns, though, and if the young goat has escaped the wolves or coyotes she takes care of it until it can take care of itself. The grown herd needs no protection. The average yield of hair is about eight pounds to the fleece, and mohair always commands a good price on the market. At shearing time help can be hired at low wages, and the consumptive owner need only direct the work.

Yet goat raising is not exactly like finding money in the street, and those who engage in it have their troubles, witness a letter which President Hoover recently received from a goat farmer, which reads:

"I regret to call your attention to the Angora goat department of the Bureau of Agriculture. It has spread broadcast a document recommending Angora to the farmers of the country. This contains three gaudy landscapes.

"Before Goating" shows a dense jungle. "One Year After Goating" shows the same land producing a valuable crop of bean poles. "Two Years After Goating" shows a lawn suitable for golfing. The omnivorous disposition of the Angora goat, in a way which led me to believe they might even effect a saving in blasting powder, the chief source of expense in farming hereabouts.

"I produced a flock at some cost. The result of the first interview of my dog and the buck caused me to name the latter 'Goat'. The dog, the goat, the goat of race suicide, I think, would receive your approval. The dog, on the other hand, neglect their kids so shamelessly that I think they belong to a female goat club.

"The herd got through a fence which was highly recommended to me by a company which I now suspect may be a trust and should be investigated. I make no complaint that the goats ate a valuable garden that belonged to a neighbor, but their conduct in my own vegetable garden entitles me to relief. When pursued, their rapidity of movement suggests the idea of the Pennsylvania Company in connection with its New-York-Chicago service. If interested, it can obtain the flock on easy terms, not necessitating a new bond issue.

MOUNTAIN LIONS KILL A BOY.

Douglas, Ariz., June 24 (Special).—The first case in recent times in the Southwest of the slaying of a human being by a mountain lion has just been reported. Though the lions of the Southwest often are larger than the famed lions of Africa, they are much less courageous, usually slinking from man, preferring coals and calves to any other prey. The great timber belt in the Sierra Madre Mountains, northern Mexico, lately purchased by Colonel W. C. Greene, the copper man, swarms with lions, as well as bears and other wild beasts.

From this district has come the story of the death of Policarpo Berce, a Mexican boy serving as a muleteer for a party of travelling men. The lad wandered a short distance from camp at night, and was stricken down by a great lion, apparently with a single blow. Next morning the body was found, within a couple of hundred yards of the camp. It had been disemboweled and partly eaten, then being carefully covered with brush, to be protected against vultures till the lion should wish to feed again.

WINE AGAINST DEATH.

A wager between wine and death made fifty-nine years ago may soon be paid. In the vault of a bank at Covington, Ind., reposes a bottle of ancient vintage, the contents of which will be drunk by the single survivor of a little band of twenty soldiers of the Mexican War. The wager is unique. After the close of hostilities with Mexico twenty of the veterans who went to the front from Fountain County, Ind., met in reunion. This was in 1849. It was voted to assemble yearly thereafter on Thanksgiving Day.

At the first dinner a bottle of wine was presented to the little company, and, in a half joking manner, one suggested that the bottle remain unopened until but one survivor remained, this one to quaff the wine to the memory of those gone before. The idea met with instant favor, and it was so agreed. Each year the annual dinner has been held, and each one more closely cemented the ties of comradeship among the band of Texas, Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon and Washington, a new field seems to open for the unfortunate.

Now there are seven veterans who have crossed the dark river, leaving three who will likely assemble on next Thanksgiving Day. One of the three who are left all are past sixty years of age, and all know full well that soon the strange compact made in that misty and dimly remembered past will be fulfilled. In the yearly interval between the Thanksgiving Day reunions the bottle of wine is kept under guard in the bank vault, but before many years it will be removed from its place of deposit for the last time. For forty-five years it has been preserved, a pathetic memory of the shadowy past, but it will not be long until its mission will be fulfilled.—Chicago Tribune.

IN THE SOMERSET HILLS.

Bernardsville, N. J., June 24.—The stopping of the trips of the coach Marchet this week has been something of a disappointment, but there are so many other attractions for the summer visitors that it will soon be forgotten. The coach made trips two or three days each week between Morristown, Bernardsville and the Whippany River Club, and from the time the trips were started six weeks ago they furnished much fun for those who took them. Some of the many who have taken the coach since summer here was in charge each trip, and prominent families formed parties of their friends to enjoy the drives. The coach and twenty horses used in the trips were taken to New-York to be disposed of at auction. The last trip was made on Wednesday, when a jolly party, with Benjamin Nicoll as host and Maurice Howlett as whip, closed the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Skaneateles, of New-York, have been in Bernardsville for several weeks in the last two weeks supervising repairs on the home they purchased last year from George B. Post. Mr. Wheeler is president of the Rockaway Club, and his summer season between Bernardsville and a trip to Europe. This year as usual, Miss Mabel Nicholas, of New-York, is spending some time here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wadsworth, who are of New-York, who have a cottage here for the season.

IN THE CITY IN SUMMER TIME.

Probably the handsomest page of hotel advertising ever printed in a newspaper was that of the Park Avenue Hotel, of this city, in the Summer Resort Number of The Tribune, on Sunday, June 12. Occupying the entire block in Park-ave. from 32d to 33d-st., and seven stories in height, its exterior appearance compares more than favorably with any of the finest New-York hotels constructed within a few years, and the immense cost and park garden which the house surrounds have no equal in the country in size and attractiveness. With its palms, trees, shrubs, fountain, electric illumination, the orchestra and a constant circulation of cool air, it has become a favorite dining resort for city people in the summer months, and visitors from all parts of the country are making their home while they remain in New-York.

Messrs. Reed and Barnett, proprietors of the Park Avenue Hotel, have demonstrated to the satisfaction of their guests that the most fastidious persons may have first class service in every department at prices which are not prohibitory and at the same time enable the management to maintain the highest standard of excellence.